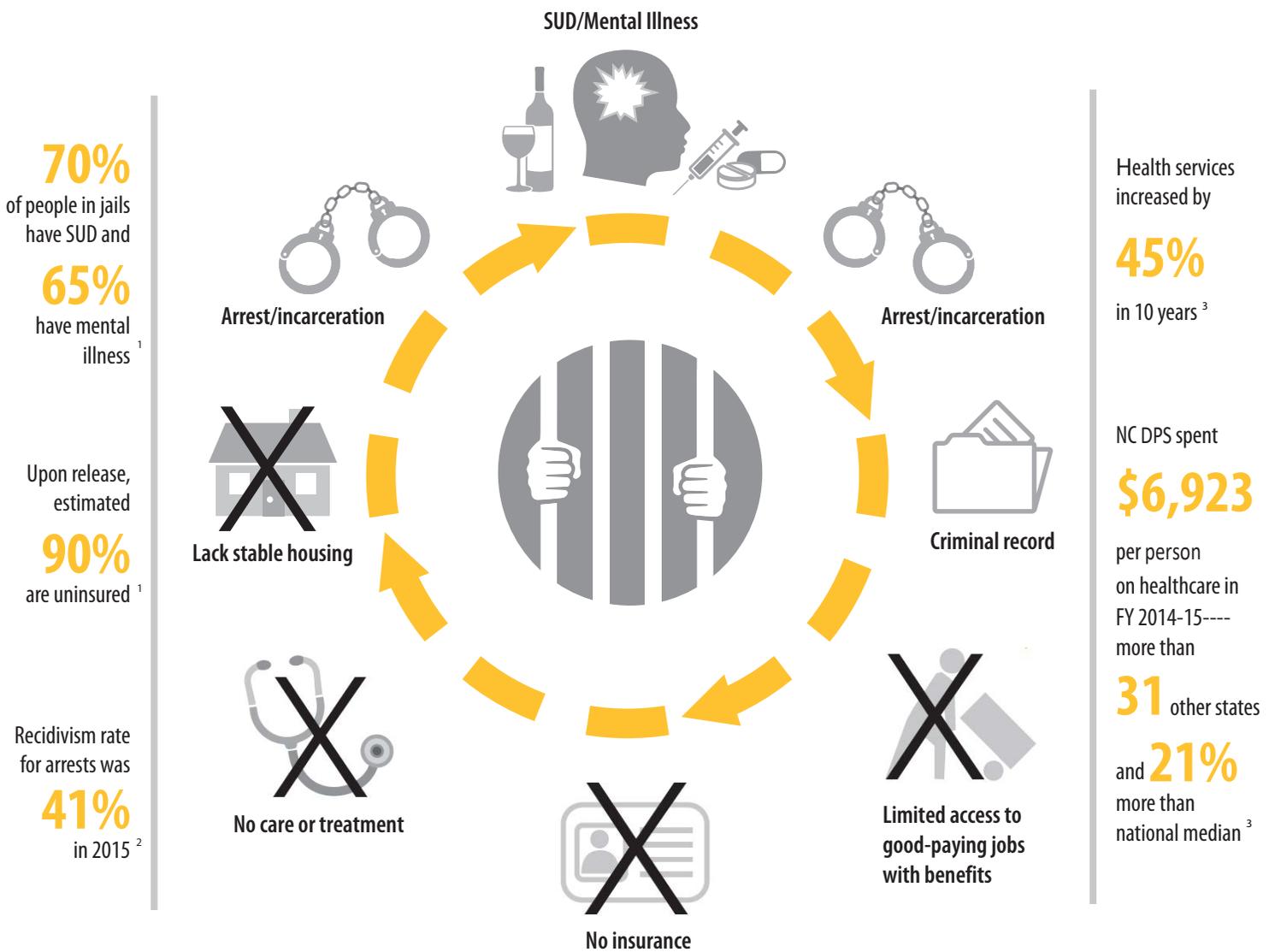


# Medicaid Expansion and the Criminal Justice System

## Cycle of Incarceration and Mental Illness/Substance Use Disorder



### Medicaid

CREATED IN 1965, Medicaid is our country's public health insurance program for people with low-income **including children, seniors, pregnant women, parents and people with disabilities** <sup>4</sup>

#### Joint State and Federal Program



Each category has its own eligibility requirements and they are very restrictive. Adults without children are not eligible for Medicaid, **no matter how low their income** <sup>4</sup>

**Only 2% of justice-involved individuals** are currently eligible for Medicaid in North Carolina <sup>5</sup>

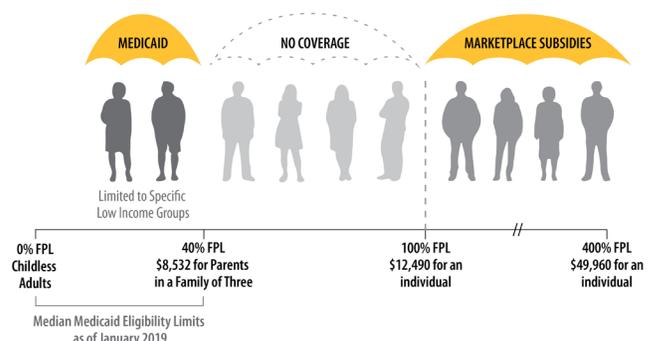
### Medicaid Expansion

MEDICAID EXPANSION is a part of the Affordable Care Act and expanding Medicaid would **increase eligibility to all low-income adults from 0-138%** of the Federal Poverty Level <sup>4</sup>

#### States can decide if they want to expand Medicaid



#### Gap in Coverage for Adults in States that Do Not Expand Medicaid under the ACA <sup>6</sup>



**No state taxes would have to be raised** <sup>7</sup>

# Medicaid Expansion and the Criminal Justice System

## Industries with the largest numbers of uninsured workers

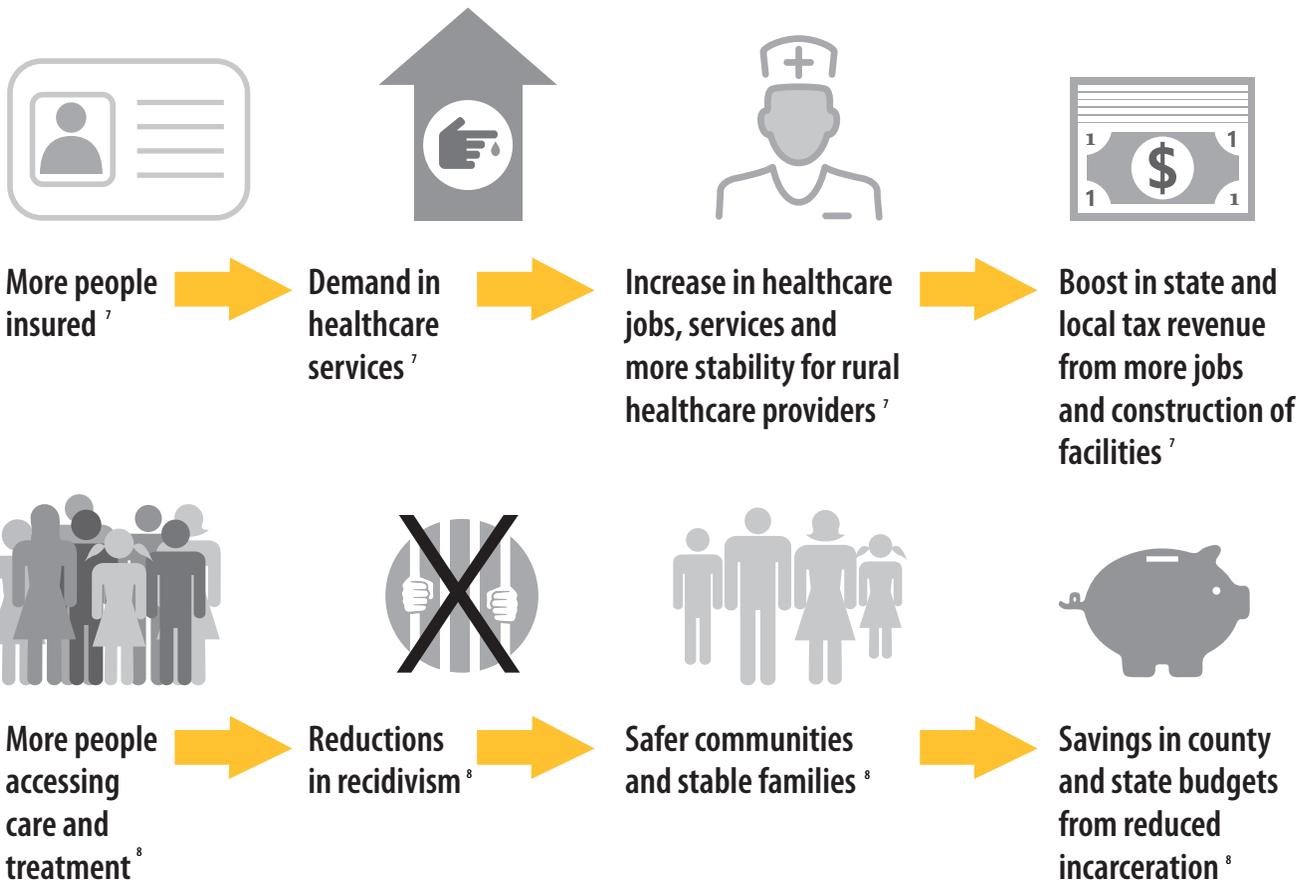
Adult Citizens in North Carolina with Family Income At or Below 138% of Poverty	
Restaurants and other food services	37,990
Construction	23,770
Grocery stores	10,220
Building services (janitor, extermination, cleaning)	6,780
Landscaping services	5,960
Employment services (temp agencies)	5,710
Department and discount stores	4,890
Nursing care facility services	3,520
Hotels, motels, and inns	3,320
Auto repair and maintenance	3,200

SOURCE: Analysis of the 2015 American Community Survey. Adults are those aged 19 through 64. Workers are those who have worked within the past year. The ten industries above are those with the largest number of uninsured workers in the Medicaid expansion

Industries most accepting to people with a criminal background

As many as 634,000 people could enroll in Medicaid by 2022 if NC expanded Medicaid (more than halving our state's uninsured population)<sup>7</sup>

With more people in need of care, more jobs will be needed to provide that care.<sup>7</sup>



### Key Savings from Medicaid Expansion for the Criminal Justice System:<sup>8</sup>

- **Fewer initial contacts** due to greater household economic stability and increased access to substance use treatment and mental health treatment
- **Lower recidivism rates** due to ongoing treatment, healthcare access and successful re-entry
- **Reduced correction spending** due to the ability to seek reimbursement for care at in-patient medical facilities, lower staff hours and transportation costs

SOURCES: 1. Zaller, N. Cloud, D. Brinkley-Rubinstein, L. Martino, S. Bouvier, B. Brockman, B. The importance of Medicaid expansion for criminal justice populations in the South. 2017. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5336439/>  
 2. Brown, C. Hall, M. North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission. Correctional Program Evaluation. Offenders Placed on Probation or Released from Prison. Fiscal Year 2015. Retrieved from [https://www.nccourts.gov/assets/documents/publications/recidivism\\_2018.pdf?4VQBstuyzU5dH1Ap7SJIIMe0zTKYU1G](https://www.nccourts.gov/assets/documents/publications/recidivism_2018.pdf?4VQBstuyzU5dH1Ap7SJIIMe0zTKYU1G)  
 3. NC General Assembly Program Evaluation Division. Improvements to inmate healthcare reimbursement and internal processes could save \$5.6 million annually. 2018. Retrieved from [https://www.ncleg.gov/PED/Reports/documents/InmateHealth\\_Mgmt/Report1\\_Management.pdf](https://www.ncleg.gov/PED/Reports/documents/InmateHealth_Mgmt/Report1_Management.pdf)  
 4. Toledo, L. Understanding Medicaid and its impact in North Carolina. 2017. Retrieved from <https://www.ncjustice.org/publications/understanding-medicaid-and-its-impact-in-north-carolina/>  
 5. U.S. Government Accountability Office. Medicaid: Information on Inmate Eligibility and Federal Costs for Allowable Services. 2014. Retrieved from <https://www.gao.gov/assets/670/665552.pdf>  
 6. Kaiser Family Foundation. The coverage gap: uninsured poor adults in states that do not expand Medicaid. 2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/the-coverage-gap-uninsured-poor-adults-in-states-that-do-not-expand-medicaid/>  
 7. Ku, L. Bruen, B. Brantley, E. The economic and employment benefits of expanding Medicaid in North Carolina: June 2019 Update. 2019. Retrieved from <http://www.ncpolicywatch.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Expanding-Medicaid-in-North-Carolina-final.pdf>  
 8. Guyer, J. Bachrach, D. Shine, N. Medicaid expansion and criminal justice costs: Pre-expansion studies and emerging practices point toward opportunities for states. 2015. Retrieved from <https://www.shvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/State-Network-Manatt-Medicaid-Expansion-and-Criminal-Justice-Costs-November-2015.pdf>